

Working to keep pressure on Iran to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in the Middle East and protect our allies in the region, Rep. Debbie Halvorson (IL-11) voted Tuesday to pass the bipartisan Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, H.R. 2194, which provides the President with the tools necessary to address the threat of a nuclear Iran.

"As we work to engage Iran on the issue of nuclear weapons, the President should be able to exercise every diplomatic option possible to ensure the Middle East is not destabilized by a nuclear Iran," said Halvorson. "Our allies in the region, including Israel, would be at great risk if Iran was allowed to develop or obtain nuclear weapons. We cannot allow this to happen. This legislation enables President Obama and our international partners the leverage they need to bring Iran to the table, and to resolve this situation through diplomatic means."

H.R. 2194, the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, co-sponsored by Halvorson, strengthens the enforcement and implementation of existing laws regarding Iran sanctions. The bill sanctions foreign companies that sell refined petroleum to Iran by denying those companies access to U.S. markets. Iran has inadequate petroleum refining capacity, which requires it to import nearly half of its gasoline. Imposing sanctions on Iran's gasoline imports will place real pressure on Iran to end its nuclear weapons program.

The House of Representatives voted 412-12 to pass the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act, with a large number of Democrats and Republicans supporting the measure.